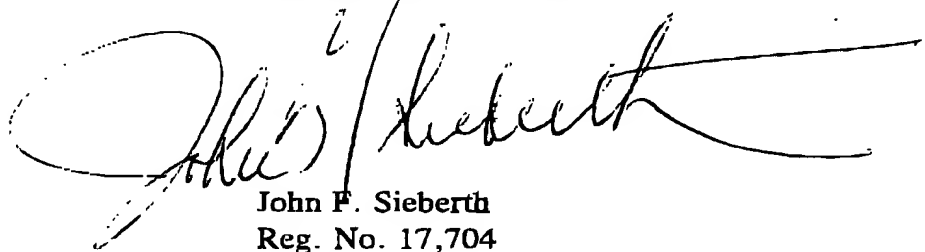


As required, Applicants hereby provisionally elect with traverse and without prejudice, the invention of Group V (claims 30-60).

Further and favorable action is solicited. If matters remain requiring further consideration that may be expedited by discussion, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the number given below so that such matters may be discussed and, if possible, promptly resolved.

Respectfully submitted,



John F. Sieberth
Reg. No. 17,704
Associate Attorney for Applicants

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Facsimile: 225-291-4606

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that in accordance with standard business practice, this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is to be deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

September 11, 2000
Date

Veronica L. Kesler